

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending.

Claims 1-3, 6-9, 11-13, 16, 17 and 19 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jonsson, U.S. Patent No. 4,809,259, in view of Lindberg, U.S. Patent No. 6,157,639. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

According to claim 1, monitoring of a correct time slot sequence is carried out during the entire correction period, and thus error recognition takes place during the actual use of the connection. Jonsson does not teach a method in which error recognition takes place during the actual use of the connection, and thus cannot possibly signal an operator that a system error has occurred. Jonsson actually teaches what is known as temporary TSSI recognition, where there are two differently timed stages, establishing the connection and using the connection. The time slots, according to Jonsson, are marked at the input and detected at the output of the connection. Checking TSSI functionality is only possible at this time, thus making it temporary TSSI recognition. According to Jonsson, after the connection is established, the time slots of the connection are used for speech data. After this point, i.e. for most of the duration of the connection, TSSI functionality is no longer checked. In contrast to Jonsson, the invention of claim 1 provides for permanent checking of TSSI functionality during the entire duration of the connection.

Further, Jonsson teaches generating fixed marking values. According to Jonsson, only certain counter values are stored in the register. Concrete binary 0,1, 2. Jonsson fails to teach or suggest, either in the specification or the drawings, a connection between the marking values in the generator register, on the one hand, and the comparators' reference value inputs in the detector part, on the other. Thus, in the solution taught by Jonsson, only a fixed, pre-set range of values can be used for the marking values, which must then be known to the comparators in the detector part.

In contrast to the teachings of Jonsson, the claimed invention provides for forming consecutively generated values, and the absolute value of the marking values is formed by

differential formation. This is not taught or suggested by Jonsson, Lindberg, or a combination thereof.

With regard to the degree of error recognition, Jonsson uses a small number of strictly defined marking values which are the same in consecutive frames. According to the device of Jonsson, in the event of an erroneous offset with a defined number of frames, the marking pattern will appear correct even though data has been lost. However, the claimed invention uses a counter that generates a significantly greater, and not predefined, range of marking values. This offers improved error recognition over the cited art.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the features of the pending claims are not taught by the cited art, either alone or in combination. Applicants request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 4, 5, 10, 14, 15, and 18 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jonsson, in view of Lindberg, as applied to claims 1 and 11, and further in view of Cloutier, U.S. Patent 5,790,543. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 4, 5, 10, 14, 15 and 18 are allowable in light of the failure of Jonsson and Lindberg to teach or suggest that for which they are cited. Cloutier further fails to overcome the deficiencies of Jonsson and Lindberg. Accordingly, Applicants request that this rejection be withdrawn.


In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and

authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 449122030600.

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